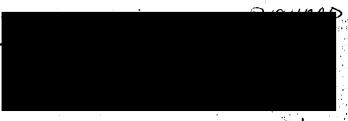
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Will the Ghost Go West

CPYRGHT

By Douglas Kiker

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WASHINGTON

Special Presidential Assist- Herald Tribune staff. ant Richard Goodwin is op PYRG H vard, Mass., trying to decide and written speeches for de plume of Lyndon B. Johnson and start writing, at last, under his own name.

At the moment he still undecided, and his friends say it is 50-50 as to whether h will remain at the Whit House as the President's chief speechwriter and one of his major idea men or resign i the early fall. He has set Sept. 15 as a deadline for naking a decision.

President Johnson has made abundantly clear to M Goodwin that he wants t keep him, but is keeping quiet while he makes his mind u

The dogdays choice Mi Goodwin faces is a classic one in Washington: whether, as young man of brilliance and ability, to remain in a semi anonymous White House role and thus retain its enormous power or to stop being somebody else's guy and strike out in quest of independent reputation. The White House s not an easy place to walk away from.

If he does leave, it will be without hard feelings on either side, for Lyndon Johnson rescued Richard Goodwin from obscure exile in the Kennedy administration and Mr. Goodwin, in turn, has served the President faithfully and well. One thing is certain, in any event—there will be no memoirs.

Mr. Goodwin was brought to the White House by Bill Moyers in those early days when the Johnson staff tried to maintain the fiction that the President personally wrote

Roscoe Drummond is on a brief vacation. During this period his column will be eritten by members of the

John Kennedy and Sargent Shriver in earlier days. But the and Mr. Moyers found they worked well together, rounded by the best staff he and gradually they evolved into a part-time team.

started making policy as well as writing about it. He has ence.
been especially active in civil / It remains, since the derights and housing. He also parture of Walter Jenkins, a tary magazine editor Norman sume that role. Podhoretz and novelist Wil- If Mr. Goodw visits).

also serve to dramatize the fact that the White House staff slowly is growing stronger, as more and more bright young men like Harry Mc-Pherson from the State Department and Joseph Califano from the Defense Depart-

ment are added to it. Mr.' Goodwin will be sorely missed. but he is not indispensable.

The President now is surhas ever had. The new members are talented and promis-Gradually Mr. Goodwin ing and the old ones have profited greatly from experi-

has served as a diplomatic staff without a chief. There envoy from the Administra- is no one who leads and unition to the intellectual com- fies its effort to serve the munity. (Under his sponsor- President, and at this time no ship, such people as Commen- one appears destined to as-

If Mr. Goodwin leaves, Mr. liam Styron have been brought to town for quiet, enlightening, backstairs White House and goals for him. But the total Johnson White House His departure would create staff still is stronger now a big vacancy, for there is no than ever before, and even one else around who writes without a leader its efficiency as well under pressure as he can be expected to increase. But simultaneously it would as time goes on.

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